

convictions, that no intelligent American Catholic can be persuaded to the recognition of an allegiance above that he owes to his Country; or that any foreign power could control the conscience of such a citizen in a question that brought up a conflict between his duty to his Country and his obedience to the visible head of his Church. There is no member of the American Party who *may* not, and we presume none who would not, in a proper case, bestow his vote or confer official appointment upon a Catholic citizen who held no civil allegiance to a foreign power, as freely as he would upon any other class of citizens in the State.

We are proud to appeal to the History of our State for bright examples of patriots, statesmen and warriors of that faith, whose names are associated with the glory of the past and the gratitude of the present time. We rejoice to be able to make this public avowal—which we are sure will be repeated and sustained by the House, as a refutation of a calumny which was intended to sow dissension amongst those who rightly understanding each other, have every motive to be friends.

To Catholics of foreign birth, the principle of exclusion will apply only as it finds them. The question of their conflicting allegiance has been variously discussed between themselves and others, and they have classed themselves on both sides of the principle. Our trust is measured by their own avowals. But holding all pretensions of a higher law in the regulation of a question of allegiance to our Constitution to be utterly inadmissible, we compromise, upon that duty, with no citizen, whatsoever may be the complexion of his religious opinions.

We are not aware that in the indulgence of such sentiments as these, any citizen of Maryland is open to the denunciation with which the Governor's Message has visited him, much less that he can be made amenable to the penal legislation of the State exercised upon him for their suppression.

The Committee are, in great part, themselves the witnesses for the American Party, so often referred to in this report, and can speak authoritatively in denial of the Executive accusation. They are the friends of civil and religious liberty; their attachment to this principle is the natural offspring of their veneration for the land of their birth, and its Institutions. It is strengthened in their breasts by education, habit, precept and practice. They claim to share in this sentiment with the same earnest appreciation as the